

16th Engineer Bn. helps community help itself



Members of the Kadhimyah Neighborhood Council and soldiers from B Company, 16th Engineer Battalion, Task Force 1st Armored Division, pose for a photograph during one of their recent meetings. Courtesy photo.

Story by Maj. Donald Walker, 16th Engineer Battalion Executive Officer

NORTH BAGHDAD, Iraq – For decades, Iraqi civilians living on the outskirts of Baghdad have had no representation in the Baghdad Governance. Many of the residents were considered squatters and denied all government services, such as power and water.

For the last several months, Bravo Company, 16th Engineer Battalion has been implementing change by forming and organizing an advisory council among the local neighborhoods north of the Kadhimyah District of Baghdad.

This area north of the capital consists mostly of farmland and a few industrial complexes including a power station, a liquid and natural gas factory and a large concrete factory. More than 30,000 residents grouped into several villages live in the area. The communities were neglected by the former regime.

Capt. Mike Baim, B Company commander, and his executive officer, 1st Lt. Dion Mancenido, meet with the local leaders of North Kadhimyah weekly.

“The first step in organizing the residents was to understand the terrain,” Baim said. “We met with several villagers over a few weeks and tried to figure out the names of the villages and locations of boundaries. From there, we asked the residents to identify the key leaders in the area.”

In December, Baim and Mancenido held their first neighborhood meeting with several of the community’s leaders discussed and presented a short-term community improvement plan. The plan included organizing a formal Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC), gaining representation in the Kadhimyah District Advisory Council (DAC), starting an aggressive humanitarian assistance program, and improving local security.

The NAC then made contact with Hazim Al Suhail, an advisor from the Coalition Provisional Authority to the Kadhimyah DAC. With this important link, the NAC will commence its integration into the Baghdad Governance.

With the support of Bravo Company, the NAC has arranged and completed many humanitarian projects. Some of these include improvements to eight local schools and repair of several sewage systems. The community and its engineer partners are moving forward to improve roads, electrical, and water systems in the area.

“As more and more project funding is approved, confidence and support from the NAC leaders greatly increase,” added Mancenido.

“We are now developing plans to organize local village councils and unarmed neighborhood watch programs,” Baim said. “Looking back on our last year in Iraq, we have truly made a positive impact on the lives of the Iraqi people living in North Kadhimyah.”

The Old Ironsides Report March 18, 2004

NEWS...

Bomb Destroys Baghdad Hotel, Kills Dozens

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A powerful car bomb destroyed a five-story hotel in central Baghdad on Wednesday night, killing at least 27 people, wounding 41 and leaving a crater 20 feet across.

Foreigners were among the hotel guests. Rescuers were searching for other victims in the Jabal Lebanon Hotel, Army Col. Ralph Baker of the 1st Armored Division said. Americans, Britons, Egyptians as well as other foreigners were staying at the hotel, resident Faleh Kalhan said.

Iraq Asks U.N. for Help With New Gov't

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - The Iraqi Governing Council asked the United Nations on Wednesday for help putting together a new government, a council spokesman said.

The council requested that U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan send back a U.N. team to help organize a government that will take over from the U.S.-led coalition June 30, council spokesman Hamid al-Kafaai told The Associated Press.

Spain's New Leader Vows Terror Crackdown

MADRID, Spain (AP) - Spain's new leader rejected pleas from world leaders Wednesday to reconsider his pledge to withdraw Spanish troops from Iraq. He called the occupation a "fiasco" and said Tomahawk missiles and bombs were not the way to defeat terrorism.

Prime Minister-elect Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero also said he would better coordinate Spain's police agencies, which failed to prevent the bombings despite knowing the whereabouts and potential danger of a top suspect and his alleged links with al-Qaida.

Israel Kills 4 in Stepped-Up Gaza Raids

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) - Israeli helicopters fired two missiles into a crowd of suspected gunmen in a Palestinian refugee camp Wednesday, killing four people in a stepped-up campaign to root out militants in the Gaza Strip. Two unarmed teenage boys and one militant were among the dead, Palestinian officials said.

Thought for the day...

Professionalism

During the War of 1812, General William Henry Harrison interrupted a difficult expedition when one of his soldiers, laboring under the hardship of the march, died.

As he watched the building of the coffin, one of the soldiers, weary of the long campaign, approached General Harrison to ask, "General, is the Army going to continue this expedition?" Harrison looked at the man and said, "Are you a soldier, sir?" "Yes," replied the man. "Then sir, be one," responded General Harrison.

In other news...

Boy Wins Vt. Rotten Sneaker Contest

By TIM McCAHILL, Associated Press Writer

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) -- Daegan Goodman may have had the shortest distance to travel to the rotten sneaker contest, but you couldn't tell that by smelling his shoes.

The 10-year-old from Montpelier took the crown - and probably a few of the judges' olfactory glands - in the annual event, which lured eight other finalists to Vermont's capital city from across the country.

Daegan explained his simple recipe for winning the coveted golden sneaker.

"I just wear 'em, sweat in 'em, play sports - I just try," he said.

Regular use and abuse seemed the treatment of choice for competitors in Tuesday's contest, which is sponsored by Odor-Eaters.

"I do BMX," said James Melton, 11, of Phoenix, Ariz. "The dirt and sweat combined made (my sneakers) really stinky."

James won a local contest to make it to Montpelier, heralded as the "Rotten Sneaker Capital of the World."

Appearing last in the 90-minute finals, James couldn't quite pass muster with "master sniffer" George Aldrich. But the impressive stench from his sneakers caused the 48-year-old judge to sway slightly nonetheless.

The annual contest began in 1975 as a way to help a local sporting goods store sell shoes. In 1988, Odor-Eaters - maker of anti-foot-odor insoles, sprays and powder - assumed sponsorship of the event.

As the winner, Daegan gets a \$500 savings bond, \$100 to buy a new pair of sneakers, the golden sneaker and a plethora of Odor-Eater products - fitting prizes for a boy with many more miles to walk.

He'll also get plenty of attention along the way. Daegan is already scheduled for appearances on cable television shows, and organizers said he'll get similar requests throughout the year.

But with glory comes sacrifice, and to prove it Odor-Eaters hired a military man to whip competitors into shape before judging began.

Sgt. Odor-Eaters - known better by his real name, Jason Goodwin - moderated the contest and led participants through a series of push-ups, jumping jacks and sit-ups to make their shoes smell all the more stupefying.

"I didn't realize how smelly the shoes would be," said Goodwin.

Smell alone is not the only quality the shoes are judged on. Appearance, "overall condition," heels and soles also count, qualities that require the presence of four other judges.

But in the end, it is Aldrich who assumes the hardest responsibility. His job in Montpelier doesn't get easier even though he's conducted hundreds of smell tests for NASA space shuttle missions.

"The stench sometimes stays with me for days," said Aldrich. Despite the sour smells, Aldrich said he'd come back for his sixth time next year if he's asked.

Today in History...

March 18, 1942: War Relocation Authority is established in United States

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) On this day, the War Relocation Authority is created to "Take all people of Japanese descent into custody, surround them with troops, prevent them from buying land, and return them to their former homes at the close of the war."

Anger toward and fear of Japanese Americans began in Hawaii shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor; everyone of Japanese ancestry, old and young, prosperous and poor, was suspected of espionage. This suspicion quickly broke out on the mainland; as early as February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered that German, Italian, and Japanese nationals-as well as Japanese Americans-be barred from certain areas deemed sensitive militarily. California, which had a significant number of Japanese and Japanese Americans, saw a particularly virulent form of anti-Japanese sentiment, with the state's attorney general, Earl Warren (who would go on to be the chief justice of the United States), claiming that a lack of evidence of sabotage among the Japanese population proved nothing, as they were merely biding their time.

While roughly 2,000 people of German and Italian ancestry were interned during this period, Americans of Japanese ancestry suffered most egregiously. The War Relocation Authority, established on March 18, 1942, was aimed at them specifically: 120,000 men, women, and children were rounded up on the West Coast. Three categories of internees were created: Nisei (native U.S. citizens of Japanese immigrant parents), Issei (Japanese immigrants), and Kibei (native U.S. citizens educated largely in Japan). The internees were transported to one of 10 relocation centers in California, Utah, Arkansas, Arizona, Idaho, Colorado, and Wyoming.

The quality of life in a relocation center was only marginally better than prison: Families were sardined into 20- by 25-foot rooms and forced to use communal bathrooms. No razors, scissors, or radios were allowed. Children attended War Relocation Authority schools.

One Japanese American, Gordon Hirabayashi, fought internment all the way to the Supreme Court. He argued that the Army, responsible for effecting the relocations, had violated his rights as a U.S. citizen. The court ruled against him, citing the nation's right to protect itself against sabotage and invasion as sufficient justification for curtailing his and other Japanese Americans' constitutional rights.

In 1943, Japanese Americans who had not been interned were finally allowed to join the U.S. military and fight in the war. More than 17,000 Japanese Americans fought; the all-Nisei 442nd Regiment, which fought in the Italian campaign, became the single most decorated unit in U.S. history. The regiment won 4,667 medals, awards, and citations, including 1 Medal of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, and 560 Silver Stars. Many of these soldiers, when writing home, were writing to relocation centers.

In 1990, reparations were made to surviving internees and their heirs in the form of a formal apology by the U.S. government and a check for \$20,000.



1ST ARMORED DIVISION RETENTION

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM REDEPLOYMENT SUPPORT



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TAX FREE LUMP SUM DEPLOYMENT BONUS
(When the wheels go up heading back to Germany the money goes away)

EXAMPLES OF BONUS PAYMENTS:

	3YR REUP	4YR REUP	5YR REUP	6YR REUP
SPC W/3 YEARS	\$4317.00	\$6650.00	\$8547.00	\$10,000.00
SGT W/6 YEARS	\$2663.00	\$7457.00	\$9588.00	\$10,000.00
SSG W/8 YEARS	\$3145.00	\$7925.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

*BONUS PAYMENTS VARY BASED UPON THE NUMBER OF YEARS REENLISTED FOR AND THE NUMBER OF MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS SOLDIER REENLISTS. THESE FIGURES ARE BASED UPON A SOLDIER REENLISTING 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS DATE. SEE YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH MONEY YOU ARE ENTITLED TO.

"STAY STRONG, STAY PROUD, STAY 1AD"

The Old Ironsides Report

March 18, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2004				As of: Wednesday, March 17, 2004 9:05:05 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	SECRETS OF WAR (TVPG): - WOMEN SPIES IN WORLD WAR II	TODAY		00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):			HEADLINE NEWS	00:30
01:00	AROUND THE HORN		WONDER BOYS		LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30	PARDON THE INTERRUPTION	THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				01:30
02:00	SPORTSCENTER			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - POSTSEASON NIT - FIRST ROUND: PURDUE VS NOTRE DAME	NBA - PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS @ INDIANA PACERS	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - HOME SWEET HOME/ WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE SKI	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (TVY): - WISH YOU WERE HERE	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS (TVY): - DREAM GOAT/ THE SAME GAME	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - STARK RAVING DAD	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - FOOD FOR THOUGHT			04:30
05:00	ESPNEWS		DHARMA & GREG (TV14): - CHARMA LOVES GREG	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
05:30	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - POSTSEASON NIT - FIRST ROUND: LSU VS OKLAHOMA	ESPNEWS	MY WIFE AND KIDS (TVPG): - SNAPPING AND SNIFFING			05:30
06:00		TOTALLY NASCAR	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - DOCUMENTARY SPECIAL	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30		ESPNEWS		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		06:30
07:00		HEADLINE NEWS	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING AN 1812 BATTLESHIP	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		07:25
07:30	SPORTSCENTER	ESPNEWS	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE CIVIL WAR		NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - HOLY WAR, INC		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		08:13
08:30	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - POSTSEASON NIT - FIRST ROUND: COLORADO VS OREGON (JIP)	HEADLINE NEWS				08:30
09:00		SESAME STREET	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - MY UNCLE SILAS II	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS (TVG): - K IS FOR TROUBLE	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - GRANDPA'S BIRTHDAY/ ROAD TRIP		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE (TVY): - WISH YOU WERE HERE		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - THE CURSE OF EL CHUPACABRA		10:30
11:00	TENNIS - PACIFIC LIFE OPEN: EARLY ROUND COVERAGE DAY 4	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - HOME SWEET HOME/ WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE SKI	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS (TVY): - DREAM GOAT/ THE SAME GAME	HEADLINE NEWS	ARMY NEWSWATCH	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
11:52			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - STARK RAVING DAD	PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - FOOD FOR THOUGHT	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30				HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00	SPORTSCENTER		AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WITH ROSS'S GRANT	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WITH THE HOME STUDY		13:17
13:25				REEL TIME		13:25
13:50				EXTREME MAKEOVER (TVPG): - PAULA AND LIANE	60 MINUTES II	13:50
14:00	NHL - NY ISLANDERS @ FLORIDA PANTHERS	HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - DOCUMENTARY SPECIAL			14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00		TODAY	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING AN 1812 BATTLESHIP	E.R. (TVPG): - OUT OF AFRICA	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30			EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE CIVIL WAR			15:30
16:00			NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - HOLY WAR, INC	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30	ESPNEWS			TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		16:30
17:00	TENNIS - PACIFIC LIFE OPEN: WOMEN'S QUARTERFINALS	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIANS (TVG): - K IS FOR TROUBLE	MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - MY UNCLE SILAS II		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		HEY ARNOLD! (TVY): - GRANDPA'S BIRTHDAY/ ROAD TRIP		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TVY7): - THE CURSE OF EL CHUPACABRA		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - HOME SWEET HOME/ WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE SKI	HEADLINE NEWS		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS (TVY): - DREAM GOAT/ THE SAME GAME	ESPNEWS		19:30
20:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - FIRST ROUND: MARYLAND VS UTEP	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - STARK RAVING DAD	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - FIRST ROUND: TEXAS TECH VS CHARLOTTE, ST. JOSEPH'S VS LIBERTY	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - FOOD FOR THOUGHT			20:30
21:00		FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WITH ROSS'S GRANT	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		60 MINUTES II	21:00
21:25		FRIENDS (TVPG): - THE ONE WITH THE HOME STUDY				21:25
21:50		REEL TIME				21:50
22:00		EXTREME MAKEOVER (TVPG): - PAULA AND LIANE	THE WEST WING (TVPG): - DOCUMENTARY SPECIAL		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - FIRST ROUND: ALABAMA VS SIU					22:30
23:00		E.R. (TVPG): - OUT OF AFRICA	EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING AN 1812 BATTLESHIP		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30			EXTREME HISTORY WITH ROGER DALTREY (TVPG): - SURVIVING THE CIVIL WAR		INSIDE POLITICS	23:30